

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SCCT-02 SAM-01 SAB-01 DRC-01 /127 W

----- 081424

R 130906Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5681

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

CONFIDENTIAL CAIRO 1221

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT EG

SUBJECT: MORE REPORTS OF CABINET RESHUFFLE

REF: CAIRO 143 (NOTAL)

1. ALI AMIN IN HIS NEWS OF TOMORROW COLUMN MARCH 8 GAVE NEW  
IMPETUS TO OLD RUMORS THAT CABINET CHANGE IS IMMINENT.  
SPECULATION ON RESHUFFLE HAS BEEN RIFE SINCE DECEMBER, ALTHOUGH  
LESS HAS BEEN HEARD IN RECENT WEEKS SINCE CHANGES DID NOT  
MATERIALIZE. AMIN WROTE THAT SADAT HAS "DECIDED" TO FORM NEW  
CABINET IN NEXT THREE WEEKS AND HAS ALMOST DECIDED" TO REDUCE  
SIZE FROM 30 TO 20 MINISTERS. YOUNG MEN ARE EXPECTED TO BE GIVEN  
POSTS (IN VARIOUS MINISTRIES) AS UNDERSECRETARIES FOR  
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND YOUNG "DEPUTY MINISTERS OF BOTH  
SEXES" WILL BE TRAINED IN ORDER TO "INJECT NEW BLOOD INTO  
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THE CABINET".

2. SPECULATION CONTINUES ABOUT PRIME MINISTERSHIP. UNSIGNED AKHBAR AL-YAWM COMMENTARY MARCH 9 (PROBABLY WRITTEN BY WELL-INFORMED EDITOR IN CHIEF IHSAN ABD AL-QADDUS), SUGGESTED THAT WITH TERMINATION WAR CONDITIONS, SADAT NOW CONTEMPLATING GIVING UP POST OF PM TO DEVOTE MORE TIME TO MILITARY AND FOREIGN POLICY. WRITER HINTS, HOWEVER, THAT PRESIDENT MAY RETAIN POST AS PRIME MINISTER, SINCE "COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY, REGARDLESS OF FORM OF GOVERNMENT, RESTS WITH PRESIDENT."

3. IF THERE IS TO BE A NEW PM, NAME MOST FREQUENTLY HEARD IS STILL ABD AL-AZIZ AL-HEGAZY, SADAT'S TOP ECONOMIC ADMINISTRATOR, CURRENTLY MINISTER OF FINANCE, ECONOMY, AND FOREIGN TRADE, AND ONE OF FOUR DEPUTY PRIME MINISTERS, RANKING AFTER MUHAMMAD ABD AL-QADIR HATEM AND MINISTER OF INTERIOR MAMDUH SALIM. FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL IN AKHBAR MARCH 9 SUGGESTS THAT RESPONSIBILITIES OF RECONSTRUCTION AND ECONOMIC LIBERALIZATION NECESSITATE APPOINTMENT OF SPECIALISTS. THIS COMMENT HAS REVIVED SPECULATION ABOUT HEGAZY WHO, UNTIL LAST MONTH, WAS ODDS-ON FAVORITE TO BE NEW PM. ONE DIPLOMAT TOLD US, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT WHEN HE CALLED ON HEGAZY IN EARLY FEB., HE FOUND HIM SITTING IN PM'S CHAIR AND ACKNOWLEDGING CONGRATULATIONS AS PM-DESIGNATE. AS RESHUFFLE FAILED TO MATERIALIZE, HOWEVER, HEGAZY'S NAME HAS BEEN MENTIONED LESS FREQUENTLY. WE HAVE HEARD VARIOUS EXPLANATIONS, MOST COMMON BEING VARIATIONS ON VERSION THAT SOVIETS OBJECT TO HIS PRAGMATIC WESTERN APPROACH TO ECONOMIC POLICY AND HIS ALLEGED PRO-WESTERN PROCLIVITIES. A SECOND STORY IS THAT MININT MAMDUH SALIM HAS REFUSED, FOR REASONS UNKNOWN TO US, TO WORK UNDER HEGAZY. ANOTHER PROBLEM WHICH MAY OBSTRUCT HEGAZY'S APPOINTMENT IS WHERE TO PUT SENIOR DEP PM HATEM. STILL ANOTHER REASON OFTEN HEARD FOR THE DELAY IS KNOWN CONCERN IN SOME INFLUENTIAL EGYPTIAN CIRCLES THAT APPOINTMENT OF ECONOMIC SPECIALIST AS PM AT THIS TIME WOULD INCUR DOMESTIC AND OTHER ARAB CRITICISM FOR ALLEGEDLY ABANDONING CONFRONTATION WITH ISRAEL. THUS DISENGAGEMENT HAS FIRST TO BE COMPLETED, PREFERABLY ALSO ON SYRIAN FRONT.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT IN PRESS MARCH 12 THAT PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORS HASAN SABRI AL-KHULI AND HAFIZ ISMA'IL, HAVE BEEN APPOINTED AMBASSADORS IN FOREIGN MINISTRY SEEMS TO CLEAR WAY FOR SOME CONFIDENTIAL

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CHANGE OF PERSONNEL AND TITLES WITH PRESIDENCY. HAFIZ ISMA'IL'S NOMINATION FOR LONDON EMBASSY HAS ALREADY BEEN ANNOUNCED IN THE PRESS. (MURAD GHALIB HAS RECEIVED SIMILAR AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENT AND MAY BE IN LINE FOR POST IN BELGRADE.) ASHRAF MARWAN AND MINSTATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS ABD AL-FATTAH ABDALLAH HAVE BEEN GIVEN SENSITIVE TASKS OF LATE, AND MAY AMONG THOSE IN PRESIDENCY WHOSE POSITIONS WILL CHANGE.

5. WE DO NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY THAT SADAT MAY RETAIN POST AS PM AND GIVE HEGAZY NEW POST AS PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR WITH CONTINUING BROAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR ORCHESTRATING ECONOMIC LIBERALIZATION PROGRAM WHICH PRESIDENT HAS SO CLEARLY INDICATED HAS TOP PRIORITY ON DOMESTIC AGENDA. ALTERNATIVELY, HEGAZY COULD BECOME PM, BUT WITH MANDATE RESTRICTED TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, WHILE SECURITY, FOREIGN, AND DEFENSE AFFAIRS REMAIN VESTED IN PRESIDENT AND FAHMY. THERE ARE SOME UNCONFIRMED SUGGESTIONS THAT MIN WAR AHMAD ISMA'IL, HAVING NOW BEEN GIVEN FIELD MARSHAL RANK, MAY GRADUALLY BE EASED OUT.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CABINET, PRIME MINISTER, PRESS COMMENTS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, REORGANIZATIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 MAR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Subject:** MORE REPORTS OF CABINET RESHUFFLE  
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**Type:** TE  
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